

In re appln. of Riccardo Comini
Serial No. 10/749,717

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Submitted herewith in response to the Office Action of May 5, 2006, is a second corrected Declaration and Power of Attorney executed by the inventor, Riccardo Comini. The enclosed second corrected Declaration and Power of Attorney replaces the first corrected Declaration and Power of Attorney filed earlier and claims priority based on Applicant's prior provisional application No. 60/360,977, filed March 1, 2002. The second corrected Declaration and Power of Attorney also references Applicant's previously filed international application PCT/US03/05853 as a 35 USC §371 National stage application. Also submitted herewith in compliance with 37 CFR §1.495 and 35 USC §§371 and 372 are copies of the following documents from Applicant's aforementioned PCT international application:

- International Search Report mailed September 23, 2003; and
- Applicant's Communication under Article 19 including an amended claim set filed in the international application on November 20, 2003.

With this Amendment, the pending application is believed to be in condition for issuance.

Should there be a cost with the filing of the attached declaration, please charge our deposit account number 05-1060 the required amount.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: MAY 30, 2006

Thomas E. Hill

Thomas E. Hill, Reg. No. 28,955
Attorney for Applicant

In re appln. of Riccardo Comini
Serial No. 10/749,717

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THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re International Application No:)
)
PCT/US03/05853)
)
International filing date: 26 February 2003)
)
Applicant: Woodhead Industries, Inc.)
)
Title: FIELD-ATTACHABLE CONNECTOR)
WITH SLIDING CONTACTS)
)
Attorney's Docket No.: 240/PCT)

International Bureau of WIPO
34, chemin des Colombettes
1211 Geneva 20
Switzerland

COMMUNICATION UNDER ARTICLE 19

Sir:

This Communication is submitted for the purpose of amending the pending claims in the subject PCT application following receipt of the International Search Report. It is respectfully requested that the attached claim set be incorporated in the subject PCT application.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: November 20, 2003

Thomas E. Hill

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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Amended) An electrical connector adapted to be connected to a cable having a plurality of wires, comprising:
 - a casing including an intake for receiving said cable;
 - a contact holder for each of said wires removably received within said casing and including a receptacle;
 - a connector assembly seated in each of said receptacles for connecting to an associated one of said wires, each connector assembly including:
 - a conductive band defining an opening sized to receive an associated wire and first and second opposing portions, said first opposing portion defining an internally threaded aperture;
 - a threaded member received in said internally threaded aperture of said band; and
 - a contact element adapted to be connected to a mating connector and received in said opening of an associated band adjacent said threaded member, wherein said contact element is a generally flat metal member having first and second depending legs spaced apart to receive in electrical contacting relation a connector element of a mating connector;
- whereby when a wire is placed in said central opening of said band between said second portion of said band and said contact, and said threaded member is tightened, said threaded member forces said contact element against said inserted wire to establish electrical continuity between a wire of said cable and an associated contact element of said connector.
2. (Cancelled)
3. (Amended) The connector of claim 1 wherein said first and second spaced legs of said contact element have facing edges, each of said edges being provided with a pad for

engaging and establishing electrical continuity with a connector element of a mating connector.

4. (Amended) The connector of claim 1 wherein said contact element further includes a central portion adapted to be engaged by a distal end of an associated threaded member for applying a compressive holding force to said wire against said second opposing portion of said band.

5. (Amended) The connector of claim 4 wherein said central portion of said contact element includes a barbed section for engaging opposing walls of a receptacle of said contact holder to secure said contact element in said contact holder.

6. (Amended) The connector of claim 4 wherein said central portion of a contact element further includes first and second outwardly extending tabs adapted to engage shoulder portions of an associated receptacle of said contact holder when inserted therein for locating said contact element within said contact holder, said connector further including a retainer covering the top of said tabs to prevent displacement of said contact out of said receptacle.

7. (Unchanged) The connector of claim 1 wherein said band is generally rectilinear having four walls defining said opening and wherein said opposing portions thereof are walls.

8. (Amended) The connector of claim 7 wherein said contact element further comprises a tab extending upwardly above its associated band;

said connector further including a printed circuit board receiving in electrical contacting relation the tab of said contact element.

9. (Amended) The connector of claim 1 further comprising a fastener for securing said casing and said contact holder to a body supporting said mating connector.

10. (Amended) The connector of claim 9 wherein said contact holder includes an upright portion adapted to receive said fastener and defining a pedestal having a base;

said connector further including a retainer having barbs adapted to extend downwardly into said contact holder and securing to said base of said pedestal for securing said bands in said contact holder.

11. (Unchanged) The connector of claim 1 wherein said cable intake includes means for sealing said cable to said intake.

12. (Amended) The connector of claim 11 wherein said sealing means includes an externally threaded coupling nut and a grommet adapted to be received over a cable;

said coupling nut being threadedly received by said cable intake to force said grommet into sealing relation with said cable.

13. (Amended) The connector of claim 1 including four individual conductive bands arranged in quadrature about said contact holder and each adapted to receive a respective contact element of a mating connector through a bottom face of said contact holder.

14. (Amended) The connector of claim 13 wherein said contact holder defines a lower central cavity, said connector further including a gasket retainer including a peripheral flange for sealing a bottom portion of said casing to a body securing said mating connector;

said gasket retainer including an extending portion adapted to be received in and releaseably secured within said cavity of said contact holder.

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

To:
THOMAS E. HILL
EMRICH & DITHMAR
300 S. WACKER DRIVE
SUITE 3000
CHICAGO, IL 60606



PCT

NOTIFICATION OF TRANSMITTAL OF THE INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT OR THE DECLARATION

(PCT Rule 44.1)

Applicant's or agent's file reference WOOD 240 PCT	Date of Mailing (day/month/year) FOR FURTHER ACTION See paragraphs 1 and 4 below
International application No. PCT/US03/05853	International filing date (day/month/year) 26 February 2003 (26.02.2003)
Applicant WOODHEAD INDUSTRIES, INC.	

1. ☒ The applicant is hereby notified that the international search report has been established and is transmitted herewith.

Filing of amendments and statement under Article 19:

The applicant is entitled, if he so wishes, to amend the claims of the international application (see Rule 46):

When? The time limit for filing such amendments is normally two months from the date of transmittal of the international search report.

Where? Directly to the International Bureau of WIPO, 34, chemin des Colombettes
1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland, Facsimile No.: (41-22) 740.14.35

For more detailed instructions, see the notes on the accompanying sheet.

2. ☐ The applicant is hereby notified that no international search report will be established and that the declaration under Article 17(2)(a) to that effect is transmitted herewith.

3. ☐ **With regard to the protest** against payment of (an) additional fee(s) under Rule 40.2, the applicant is notified that:

☐ the protest together with the decision thereon has been transmitted to the International Bureau together with the applicant's request to forward the texts of both the protest and the decision thereon to the designated Offices.

☐ no decision has been made yet on the protest; the applicant will be notified as soon as a decision is made.

4. **Reminders**

Shortly after **18 months** from the priority date, the international application will be published by the International Bureau. If the applicant wishes to avoid or postpone publication, a notice of withdrawal of the international application, or of the priority claim, must reach the International Bureau as provided in Rules 90 *bis*.1 and 90 *bis*.3, respectively, before the completion of the technical preparations for international publication.

Within **19 months** from the priority date, but only in respect of some designated Offices, a demand for international preliminary examination must be filed if the applicant wishes to postpone the entry into the national phase **until 30 months** from the priority date (in some Offices even later); otherwise the applicant must, **within 20 months** from the priority date, perform the prescribed acts for entry into the national phase before those designated Offices.

In respect of other designated Offices, the time limit of **30 months** (or later) will apply even if no demand is filed within 19 months.

See the Annex to Form PCT/IB/301 and, for details about the applicable time limits, Office by Office, see the *PCT Applicant's Guide*, Volume II, National Chapters and the WIPO Internet site.

Name and mailing address of the ISA/US
Mail Stop PCT, Attn: ISA/US
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
Facsimile No. (703)305-3230

Authorized officer

ROSS GUSHI

Telephone No. (703) 308-0956

Diane Smith

Form PCT/ISA/220 (April 2002)

(See notes on accompanying sheet)

JUN 02 2006 0183707

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

(PCT Article 18 and Rules 43 and 44)

Applicant's or agent's file reference WOOD 240 PCT	FOR FURTHER ACTION	see Notification of Transmittal of International Search Report (Form PCT/ISA/220) as well as, where applicable, item 5 below.
International application No. PCT/US03/05853	International filing date (<i>day/month/year</i>) 26 February 2003 (26.02.2003)	(Earliest) Priority Date (<i>day/month/year</i>) 01 March 2002 (01.03.2002)
Applicant WOODHEAD INDUSTRIES, INC.		

This international search report has been prepared by this International Searching Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 18. A copy is being transmitted to the International Bureau.

This international search report consists of a total of 3 sheets.



It is also accompanied by a copy of each prior art document cited in this report.

1. Basis of the Report

a. With regard to the **language**, the international search was carried out on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.



the international search was carried out on the basis of a translation of the international application furnished to this Authority (Rule 23.1(b)).

b. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, the international search was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:



contained in the international application in written form.



filed together with the international application in computer readable form.



furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.



furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.



the statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.



the statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

2. ☐ Certain claims were found unsearchable (See Box I).

3. ☐ Unity of invention is lacking (See Box II).

4. With regard to the **title**,



the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.



the text has been established by this Authority to read as follows:

5. With regard to the **abstract**,



the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.



the text has been established, according to Rule 38.2(b), by this Authority as it appears in Box III. The applicant may, within one month from the date of mailing of this international search report, submit comments to this Authority.

6. The figure of the **drawings** to be published with the abstract is Figure No. 1



as suggested by the applicant.



because the applicant failed to suggest a figure.



because this figure better characterizes the invention.



None of the figures

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US03/05853

Box III TEXT OF THE ABSTRACT (Continuation of Item 5 of the first sheet)

The technical features mentioned in the abstract do not include a reference sign between parentheses (PCT Rule 8.1(d)).

NEW ABSTRACT

A connector comprising a contact holder (18) to hold a plurality of contact assemblies (22, 23, 14).

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US03/05853

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(7) : H01R 4/36

US CL : 439/810

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

U.S. : 439/810, 811, 812, 813, 814, 469, 467

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 4,213,667 A (Wittes) 22 July 1980 (22.07.1980), see entire document.	1

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

☐ See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:

"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

"E" earlier application or patent published on or after the international filing date

"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)

"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art

"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

27 May 2003 (27.05.2003)

Date of mailing of the international search report

23 SEP 2003

Name and mailing address of the ISA/US

Mail Stop PCT, Attn: ISA/US
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Facsimile No. (703)305-3230

Authorized officer

ROSS GUSHI

Telephone No. (703) 308-0956

NOTES TO FORM PCT/ISA/220

These Notes are intended to give the basic instructions concerning the filing of amendments under Article 19. The Notes are based on the requirements of the Patent Cooperation Treaty and of the Regulations and the Administrative Instructions under that Treaty. In case of discrepancy between these Notes and those requirements, the latter are applicable. For more detailed information, see also the PCT Applicant's Guide, a publication of WIPO.

In these Notes, "Article", "Rule" and "Section" refer to the provisions of the PCT, the PCT Regulations and the PCT Administrative Instructions, respectively.

INSTRUCTIONS CONCERNING AMENDMENTS UNDER ARTICLE 19

The applicant has, after having received the international search report, one opportunity to amend the claims of the international application. It should however be emphasized that, since all parts of the international application (claims, description and drawings) may be amended during the international preliminary examination procedure, there is usually no need to file amendments of the claims under Article 19 except where, e.g. the applicant wants the letter to be published for the purposes of provisional protection or has another reason for amending the claims before international publication. Furthermore, it should be emphasized that provisional protection is available in some States only.

What parts of the international application may be amended?

The claims only.

The description and the drawings may only be amended during international preliminary examination under Chapter II.

When? Within 2 months from the date of transmittal of the international search report or 16 months from the priority date, whichever time limit expires later. It should be noted, however, that the amendments will be considered as having been received on time if they are received by the International Bureau after the expiration of the applicable time limit but before the completion of the technical preparations for international publication (Rule 46.1).

Where not to file the amendments?

The amendments may only be filed with the International Bureau and not with the receiving Office or the International Searching Authority (Rule 46.2).

Where a demand for international preliminary examination has been/is filed, see below.

How? Either by cancelling one or more entire claims, by adding one or more new claims or by amending the text of one or more of the claims as filed.

A replacement sheet must be submitted for each sheet of the claims which, on account of an amendment or amendments, differs from the sheet originally filed.

All the claims appearing on a replacement sheet must be numbered in Arabic numerals. Where a claim is cancelled, no renumbering of the other claims is required. In all cases where claims are renumbered, they must be renumbered consecutively (Administrative Instructions, Section 205(b)).

What documents must/may accompany the amendments?

Letter (Section 205(b)):

The amendments must be submitted with a letter.

The letter will not be published with the international application and the amended claims. It should not be confused with the "Statement under Article 19(1)" (see below, under "Statement under Article 19(1)").

The letter must indicate the differences between the claims as filed and the claims as amended. It must, in particular, indicate, in connection with each claim appearing in the international application (it being understood that identical indications concerning several claims may be grouped), whether:

- (i) the claim is unchanged;
- (ii) the claim is cancelled;
- (iii) the claim is new;
- (iv) the claim replaces one or more claims as filed;
- (v) the claim is the result of the division of a claim as filed.

NOTES TO FORM PCT/ISA/220 (continued)

The following examples illustrate the manner in which amendments must be explained in the accompanying letter:

1. [Where originally there were 48 claims and after amendment of some claims there are 51]:
"Claims 1 to 29, 31, 32, 34, 35, 37 to 48 replaced by amended claims bearing the same numbers; claims 30, 33 and 36 unchanged; new claims 49 to 51 added."
2. [Where originally there were 15 claims and after amendment of all claims there are 11]:
"Claims 1 to 15 replaced by amended claims 1 to 11."
3. [Where originally there were 14 claims and the amendments consist in cancelling some claims and in adding new claims]:
"Claims 1 to 6 and 14 unchanged; claims 7 to 13 cancelled; new claims 15, 16 and 17 added." or
"Claims 7 to 13 cancelled; new claims 15, 16 and 17 added; all other claims unchanged."
4. [Where various kinds of amendments are made]:
"Claims 1-10 unchanged; claims 11 to 13, 18 and 19 cancelled; claims 14, 15 and 16 replaced by amended claim 14; claim 17 subdivided into amended claims 15, 16 and 17; new claims 20 and 21 added."

"Statement under Article 19(1)" (Rule 46.4)

The amendments may be accompanied by a statement explaining the amendments and indicating any impact that such amendments might have on the description and the drawings (which cannot be amended under Article 19(1)).

The statement will be published with the international application and the amended claims.

The statement should be brief; it should not exceed 500 words if in English or if translated into English.

It should not be confused with and does not replace the letter indicating the differences between the claims as filed and as amended. It must be filed on a separate sheet and must be identified as such by a heading, preferably by using the words "Statement under Article 19(1)."

It should not contain any disparaging comments on the international search report or the relevance of citations contained in the report. References to citations, relevant to a given claim, contained in the international search report, may be made only in connection with an amendment of that claim.

In what language?

The amendments must be made in the language in which the international application is published. The letter and any statement accompanying the amendments must be in the same language as the international application if that language is English or French; otherwise, it must be in English or French, at the choice of the applicant.

Consequence if a demand for international preliminary examination has already been filed?

If, at the time of filing any amendments under Article 19, a demand for international preliminary examination has already been submitted, the applicant must preferably, at the same time of filing the amendments with the International Bureau, also file a copy of such amendments with the International Preliminary Examining Authority (see Rule 62.2(a), first sentence).

Consequence with regard to translation of the international application for entry into the national phase?

The applicant's attention is drawn to the fact that, where upon entry into the national phase, a translation of the claims as amended under Article 19 may have to be furnished to the designated/elected Offices, instead of, or in addition to, the translation of the claims as filed.

For further details on the requirements of each designated/elected Office, see Volume II of the PCT Applicant's Guide.